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D. Lowe, A. R. Mackenzie, H. Schlager, C. Voigt, A. Dörnbrack, et al.. Liquid particle composition and heterogeneous reactions in a mountain wave Polar Stratospheric Cloud. *Atmospheric Chemistry and Physics*, 2006, 6 (11), pp.3611-3623. hal-00296017

HAL Id: hal-00296017

<https://hal.science/hal-00296017>

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Liquid particle composition and heterogeneous reactions in a mountain wave Polar Stratospheric Cloud

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Received: 25 April 2005 – Published in Atmos. Chem. Phys. Discuss.: 4 October 2005

Revised: 9 May 2006 – Accepted: 16 August 2006 – Published: 6 September 2006

Abstract. Mountain wave polar stratospheric clouds (PSCs) were detected on 8 February 2003 above the Scandinavian Mountains by in-situ instruments onboard the M55 Geophysica aircraft. PSC particle composition, backscatter and chlorine activation for this case are studied with a recently developed non-equilibrium microphysical box model for liquid aerosol. Results from the microphysical model, run on quasi-lagrangian trajectories, show that the PSC observed was composed of supercooled ternary ($\text{H}_2\text{O}/\text{HNO}_3/\text{H}_2\text{SO}_4$) solution (STS) particles, which are out of equilibrium with the gas phase. The measured condensed nitric acid and aerosol backscatter of the PSC can well be simulated with the model. Up to 0.15 ppbv Cl_2 can be released by the PSC within 2 h, showing the propensity of these small-scale clouds for chlorine activation. Equilibrium calculations – of the sort commonly used in large scale chemistry transport models – overestimate the measured condensed nitrate by up to a factor of 3, and overestimates chlorine activation by 10%, in this mountain wave cloud.

1 Introduction

Polar stratospheric clouds (PSCs) have long been recognised to play an important role in the destruction of stratospheric ozone via chlorine activation, dehydration and denitrification (for a detailed review and discussion see, for example, WMO, 2003, and references within). PSCs are, however, composed of a range of different particles, both solid and liquid, the combination of which governs their environmental influence. Below the frost point solid type II particles can exist, composed of water ice. Up to several degrees

above the frost point HNO_3 -rich type I particles can form. These can consist of solid nitric acid trihydrate (NAT) (Hanson and Mauersberger, 1988) as observed by balloon-borne in-situ mass spectrometry (Voigt et al., 2000a) – or possibly dihydrate (NAD) (Worsnop et al., 1993). Additionally, supercooled ternary solution (STS) droplets (Molina et al., 1993; Zhang et al., 1993; Carslaw et al., 1994) form via the condensation of HNO_3 and H_2O onto the background binary $\text{H}_2\text{SO}_4/\text{H}_2\text{O}$ aerosol.

Models of liquid STS PSCs (Carslaw et al., 1994; Tabazadeh et al., 1994a) were initially developed to match the observations of total particle volume reported by Dye and co-workers (Dye et al., 1992). The STS models also explained the classification of lidar PSC observations into depolarising (type 1a) and non-depolarising (type 1b) clouds (Browell et al., 1990; Toon et al., 1990). Further model-data comparisons of PSC occurrence ensued (e.g., Tabazadeh et al., 1994b, 1996; Toon et al., 1995; Larsen et al., 1997), including quasi-Lagrangian remote sensing of PSCs (Carslaw et al., 1998; Wirth et al., 1999), which began to tease out the time- and temperature-dependence of transitions between PSC types.

The transition from a sulphuric- to nitric-acid-dominated solution occurs over a relatively small temperature interval of ~ 2 K about 3–5 K above the ice frostpoint. The speed at which this change in composition occurs is controlled by the condensation rates of the individual components; the condensation rates are themselves determined by the particle size and partial pressure of the component in the gas phase. Thus, while the H_2O -content of the condensed-phase can reach equilibrium with the atmosphere within seconds, the condensed-phase HNO_3 -content can take from several minutes for smaller particles ($\approx 0.1 \mu\text{m}$) to several hours for the largest particles ($\approx 2 \mu\text{m}$). The limited uptake rate of HNO_3

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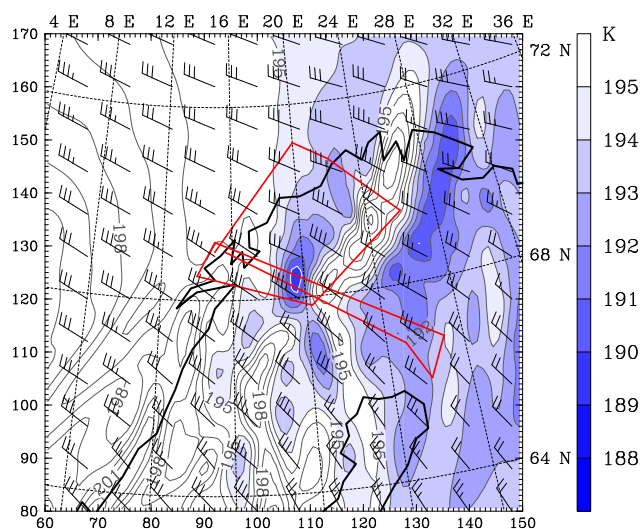


Fig. 1. Hindcast of air temperature at 50 mbar for 18:00 UTC, 8 February 2003 from the MM5 mesoscale model. The red line indicates the flight path of the Geophysica.

means that rapid temperature fluctuations, such as those occurring within mountain lee waves, can lead to droplets with highly non-equilibrium compositions (Meilinger et al., 1995; Lowe et al., 2003).

The heterogeneous chemical processes involved in chlorine activation have been extensively studied in laboratory work (see, for example, Sander et al., 2003, and references within. A gap in the published parameterisations is noted in Sect. 4.1, however.). Whilst the majority of the chemical constituents involved in these processes have been measured on a range of scales, from in-situ to global, modelling studies of chlorine activation have tended to focus on global/regional effects, originally incorporating the heterogeneous processes as empirical effects, which are compared with large-scale rather than in-situ observations (e.g. Kühl et al., 2004). Recent work has incorporated microphysical PSC schemes into regional-scale chemical models (Drdla and Schoeberl, 2003; Mann et al., 2003). Microphysical models have previously been used to model chlorine activation, initially considering just background aerosols and NAT PSCs (Jones et al., 1990; Lutman et al., 1994), but later considering more complicated populations of particles (Drdla, 1996; Sessler et al., 1996; Carslaw et al., 1998). However, quasi-Lagrangian studies of PSC formation and chlorine activation have not been carried out, because measurements of PSCs have been remote rather than in-situ (Carslaw et al., 1998; Wirth et al., 1999), or because measurements of chlorine activation have not been quasi-Lagrangian (Kawa et al., 1997).

Until recently the chemical compositions of PSC particles have had to be inferred from gas-phase compositions and the polarisation of lidar signals or from size distributions measured by optical particle counters; however the develop-

ment of balloon-borne mass spectrometers (Schreiner et al., 1999), and aeroplane-borne chemiluminescence instruments (Northway et al., 2002), designed to measure the NO_y content of the particle phase, mean that the chemical composition of PSCs can now be measured directly.

These balloon-borne in-situ measurements positively identified NAT (Voigt et al., 2000a) and STS (Voigt et al., 2000b) in mountain wave PSCs. Recently such measurements have also been used to confirm the presence of HCl in STS particles (Weisser et al., 2006). Because the balloons carrying these instruments follow quasi-lagrangian flight-paths, the measurements are highly suited to the creation of lagrangian trajectories for 0-D models (Voigt et al., 2003). In addition, in-situ measurements of the NO_y content of the particle and gas phases allowed the identification of very low number densities of relatively large ($5\text{ }\mu\text{m}$ radius) NAT particles (so-called “NAT-rocks”) during the SOLVE/THESEO 2000 campaign (Fahey et al., 2001).

The microphysical studies mentioned above concentrated purely on particle compositions, with no consideration of the heterogeneous reactions occurring on these particles. Studies of these reactions which use a microphysical box-model (e.g. Carslaw et al., 1998) have not been able to make comparisons of the model output with in-situ measurements of the changes in the mixing ratios of chlorine compounds passing through the PSC event. One of the aims of the VINTERSOL-EuPLEX campaign is to study halogen activation within PSCs. To this end the M-55 Geophysica aircraft was fitted with instruments to make in-situ measurements of particle composition and a number of chlorine species. Care was taken to fly the Geophysica parallel to the wind-direction close to, or within, PSCs in order to allow quasi-lagrangian studies of the evolution of these PSC properties to be made. Below we will examine one such flight from EuPLEX, comparing the particle compositions with those calculated by our microphysical model (Lowe et al., 2003), and with an equilibrium composition STS model such as commonly used in chemistry-transport models (e.g. Sessler et al., 1996). We shall examine the differences in Cl_2 production between the two models. Direct comparison with ClO_x observations are not possible because of the high solar zenith angles during the flight (see below).

2 Meteorological forecast and flight plan

The meteorological conditions above northern Scandinavia on 8 February 2003 were favourable for the excitation and vertical propagation of mountain waves. These waves formed mesoscale stratospheric temperature anomalies which extended from directly above to around 200 km downstream of the mountain range (Fig. 1). The hindcast simulation from the MM5 mesoscale model indicates the presence of two nearly parallel regions of low temperatures with a peak-to-peak amplitude of about 12 K, whereas the

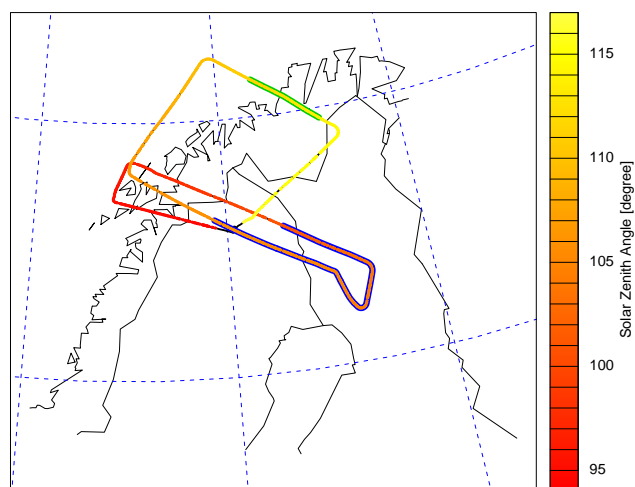


Fig. 2. The changes in solar zenith angle during the flight of the Geophysica aircraft on 8 February 2003. The green and blue sections roughly indicate where the aircraft passed through PSCs.

cooling with respect to the upstream conditions amounts to about 6 K.

Tropospheric excitation conditions varied on 8 February 2003, so that the stratospheric mountain wave event only lasted for about 6 h. Therefore, and in contrast to former documented events (Dörnbrack et al., 1999, 2002), the cooling within the waves was limited to 6 K.

Based on the MM5 forecasts (Dörnbrack et al., 1998) a flight plan was drawn up for the Geophysica to include several passes through these mountain waves parallel to the wind direction; on the day the flight path was fine-tuned using lidar observations from the Falcon aircraft. The Geophysica passed through a number of PSCs, the positions of which are indicated in Fig. 2.

3 Measurements

The Geophysica aircraft carries a wide-range of instruments, from lidar through to whole-air samplers (Stefanutti et al., 2004); in this study, however, we shall primarily use data from the SIOUX instrument (Schmitt, 2003; Voigt et al., 2005) – a chemiluminescence detector similar to that used by Northway et al. (2002) on the ER-2 aircraft. We will also use temperature data from the JPL MTP (Microwave Temperature Profiler) instrument (Denning et al., 1989); aerosol backscatter data from the MAS instrument (Adriani et al., 1999); total H₂O mixing ratios from the FISH (Fast In-Situ Hygrometer (Zöger et al., 1999); N₂O mixing ratios from the HAGAR instrument (Stefanutti et al., 2004); and ClO, ClOOCl and ClONO₂ mixing ratios from the HALOX (HALogen OXide monitor) instrument (Brune et al., 1989; von Hobe et al., 2005). Although the Geophysica carried a FSSP aerosol spectrometer to measure the aerosol size dis-

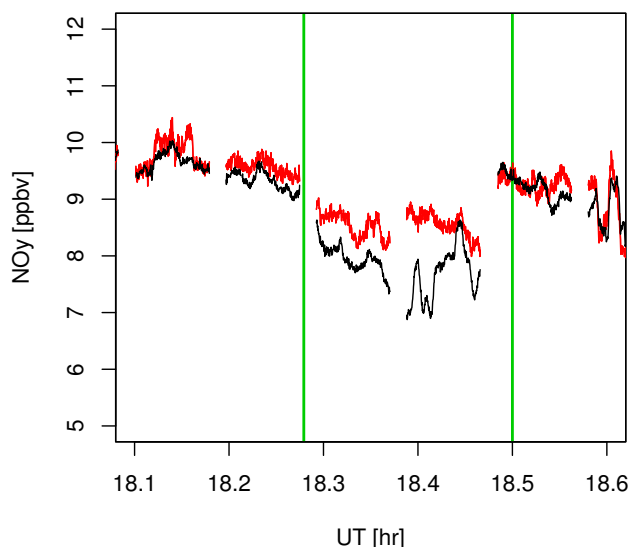


Fig. 3. Measured gas-phase plus $3.6 \times$ particle-phase (red line) and gas-phase (black line) NO_y measured by the SIOUX instrument around the second PSC event on the flight on 8 February 2003. The green lines denote the edges of the region of PSCs marked by the green line in Fig. 2.

tribution, it was not operational during the part of the flight discussed below.

The SIOUX instrument (Schmitt, 2003; Voigt et al., 2005) located in the right wing pod of the aircraft M55 Geophysica has two inlets, which are especially designed for PSC measurements. Particle- and gas-phase NO_y (total NO_y) are detected using a forward facing inlet. The measured particle number density is enhanced due to anisokinetic sampling of the particles, the enhancement factor is dependent on pressure and particle size. The rear facing inlet primarily measures the gas phase; particles with diameters $>0.2 \mu\text{m}$ are excluded due to inertia. Inside the inlets the particles evaporate, NO_y is catalytically reduced to NO, and the subsequent reaction of NO with ozone is measured with a chemiluminescence detector. Nitric acid content of the particles is derived by subtracting the gas phase NO_y from the total NO_y and correcting for the particle enhancement. In this work, we use an oversampling factor of 3.6 for particles smaller than $0.3 \mu\text{m}$ at pressures near 50 mbar, derived from inlet simulations (Krämer and Afchine, 2004). The oversampling factor increases for larger particles and decreases for lower pressures.

Measurements taken by the SIOUX instrument during this flight are shown in Fig. 3. The discrepancies between the total (red line) and gas-phase (black line) NO_y occur when particles are present. We shall concentrate on the second, Northern, PSC event: denoted by the green lines in Figs. 2 and 3. The section of the flight that passes through this PSC was in the direction of, and practically parallel to, the local wind; this allows us to use the flight to construct a quasi-

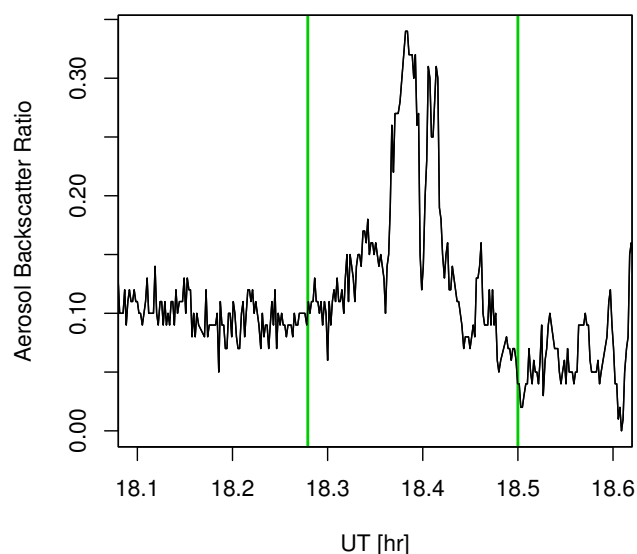


Fig. 4. Aerosol backscatter ratios measured by the MAS instrument. The green lines denote the edges of the region of PSCs marked by the green line in Fig. 2.

lagrangian trajectory. We will not use the earlier PSC event (denoted by the blue line in Fig. 2) for a case study. This is done because the magnitudes of the MAS and SIOUX data within this event are not as great as those of the later event, to the degree that the signal in the SIOUX data is below the instruments detection limit. Additionally, the flight path of the Geophysica is not parallel to the wind direction throughout all of the earlier PSC observations, and so is not suitable for use within quasi-lagrangian trajectories.

The MAS instrument (Adriani et al., 1999) is an optical backscatter sonde, which measures aerosol backscatter and depolarization. Measurements cover a volume of air some 2–30 m starboard of the nose of the aircraft, with a peak signal at 3–5 m from the aircraft (which is the signal we will use for this work). The instrument is, therefore, a close-range remote sensor rather than a truly in-situ sensor. However, the range of the instrument is short enough that we can compare the results with in-situ measurements. The MAS instrument uses the wavelengths 532 nm and 1064 nm, however the 1064 nm data was very noisy during this flight, so we will just use the 532 nm data. Measurements taken by the MAS instrument are shown in Fig. 4. This shows an increase in backscatter within the mountain-wave event, indicating an increase in the mass of the aerosol phase. Volume depolarisation at 532 nm was also measured by MAS, and showed no signal above background during the PSC events shown in Fig. 4, indicating that the particles are liquid.

To create trajectories for our model we shall use temperature and pressure measurements made during the flight. In-situ measurements of these were made by the Geophysica's navigational data system (UCSE) and the MTP instrument.

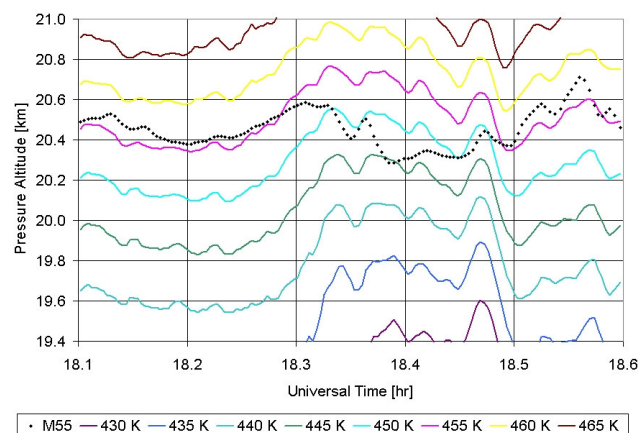


Fig. 5. Comparison of the pressure altitude of the Geophysica-M55 during the flight on the 8 February 2003 (black diamonds) with the pressure altitudes of isentropic surfaces (coloured solid lines) at 5 K intervals.

Additionally the variations in temperature within 5 km of the flight path altitude can be reliably obtained using the MTP measurements – the estimated errors in temperature relative to radiosondes are ± 0.5 K at flight level, less than ± 1.0 K within 2.2 km of flight level, and less than ± 2.0 K within 6 km of flight level. Using this data we compare the changes in the aircraft pressure altitude with those of the isentropic surfaces within the mountain wave (Fig. 5). Before the mountain wave the aircraft flies just above the 455 K isentrope, following its profile well. Within the mountain wave ($t \approx 18.27$ – 18.5 h), however, the aircraft drops about 10 K in potential temperature, before returning to roughly follow the 455 K isentrope again. These changes in potential temperature mean that the aircraft trajectory is not perfectly lagrangian; in the work below we will investigate the influence of variations in flight potential temperature on our attempts to replicate the NO_y observations.

Comparisons of the UCSE data with measurements from the MTP show that, on average over the whole campaign, $T_{\text{UCSE}} = T_{\text{MTP}} - 1.14$ K. For the 8 February flight this difference becomes $T_{\text{UCSE}} = T_{\text{MTP}} - 1.63$ K. The MTP data are calibrated using measurements from radiosondes launched close to the flight path of the Geophysica and so are likely to be the most reliable temperature measurements; however the higher temporal resolution of the UCSE data is useful for our work, and so we will use this for our trajectories, although with corrections to bring the temperature in line with the MTP measurements.

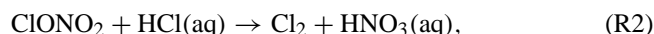
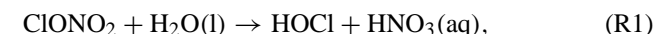
4 Model details

We will use two box models to calculate the evolution of, and heterogeneous reactions on, the aerosol along a trajectory passing through the mountain wave. The first uses the

parameterisation of Carslaw et al. (1995) to calculate the composition of STS in meta-stable equilibrium with the gas-phase, from which we calculate the aerosol surface area for a prescribed particle number density. The second, MADVEC, describes the dynamics of condensational growth of liquid PSC particles, using the advection of mass components in radius-space (Pilinis, 1990) driven by differences between ambient partial pressures and the equilibrium vapour pressures parameterised by Luo et al. (1995). This scheme allows us to treat particle growth as the advection of mass in size-space using fluid dynamical methods (see Lowe et al., 2003, for more details).

4.1 Heterogeneous chemical reactions

To the box models we have added parameterisations of heterogeneous reactions for the release of Cl_2 and HOCl :



No gas-phase homogeneous reactions have yet been incorporated into the box models; so we do not currently model the photolytic conversion of Cl_2 into ClO , or the re-combination of ClO and NO_2 to form ClONO_2 . These processes would not be relevant for these test-cases due to the high solar zenith angle; which increased from 111.5° to 114° during the passage of the Geophysica through the second PSC event (see Fig. 2).

There are no parameterisations for the rates of Reactions (R1)–(R3) on STS; instead we will use the parameterisations for binary sulphate solutions calculated by Shi et al. (2001). Their parameterisations are based on the water activity of the binary solution. To use their solution we simply insert the water activity of the STS droplets.

This method may, however, lead to an over estimation of the production rates of Cl_2 and HOCl during our test-cases. Hanson (1998) has compared measured uptake coefficients for Reactions (R1) and (R2) on ternary $\text{HNO}_3/\text{H}_2\text{SO}_4$ solutions with the calculated coefficients for binary sulphate solutions of the same water activity. He found that the uptake coefficients for ternary solutions were typically 30–50% less than would be expected for binary solutions with the same water activity. In addition we should note that the uptake coefficients given by the parameterisation of Shi et al. (2001) are, generally, greater than those used by Hanson (1998), which will increase any over-prediction in production rates (see Shi et al., 2001, Fig. 6, for comparison).

In both box-models we will treat ClONO_2 , HOCl and HCl as purely gas-phase species; principally because the calculations of Shi et al. (2001) use the gas-phase concentration of HCl , and include terms to account for the depletion of HCl in the condensed-phase. However, because of the relatively small saturation ratios of HCl , this assumption of equilibrium

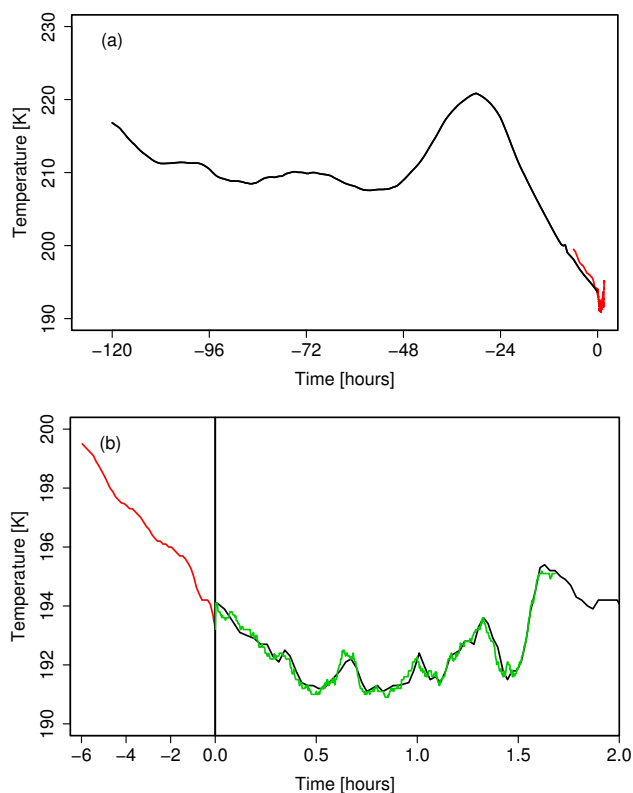


Fig. 6. (a) Temperature profile of the synoptic-scale (black line) back trajectory; the quasi-lagrangian trajectory used for the model runs is included for comparison (red line). (b) The quasi-lagrangian trajectory (combined red and green line) compared with the MTP temperature derived from the profile along the flight path (black line). The first (red) section of the trajectory is generated from a hindcast made using the MM5 model. The second (green) section is generated from the Geophysica flight data, the temperature is $T_{\text{UCSE}} + 1.5 \text{ K}$. Maximum cooling rates during the composite $T_{\text{UCSE}} + 1.5 \text{ K}$ are 0.04 K s^{-1} over 5 s and 0.004 K s^{-1} over 900 s.

is not unreasonable. Any gains or losses of H_2O or HNO_3 by reaction are applied to the condensed phase, however these are not large enough to make any significant difference to particle compositions.

5 Test case settings

5.1 Trajectories

Synoptic-scale back trajectories (based on ECMWF-analysis; <http://badc.nerc.ac.uk/data/ecmwf-trj/>) from the start of the second PSC event show that the temperature of the air-parcel was above 200 K for a period of at least 10–120 h before the mountain wave event (Fig. 6a). As such we can assume that any PSC particles observed within the mountain wave event are less than 10–15 h old.

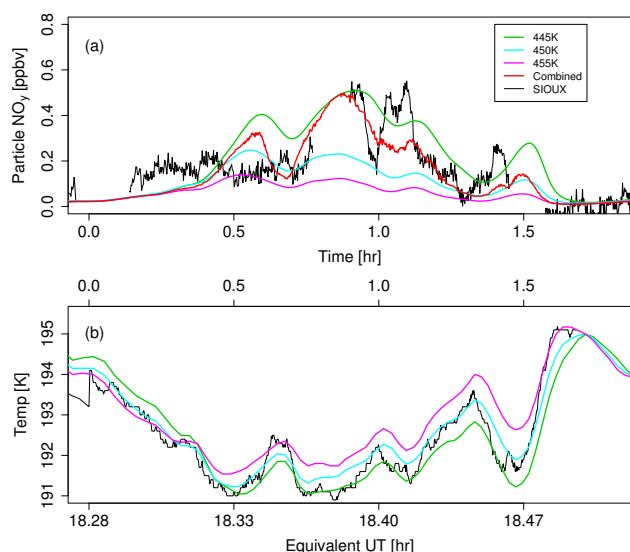


Fig. 7. (a) NO_y content of the condensed phase for our non-equilibrium model along the isentropes measured by the MTP instrument (green, light blue and purple lines, as identified in the legend), combined NO_y content along the aircraft trajectory from the isentropes data (red line), and measured by the SIOUX instrument (black line). (b) The temperature profiles along the isentropic trajectories (green, cyan and purple lines as identified in the legend in Fig. 7a), as well as the T_{UCSE} + 1.5 K temperature profile. Note that, because of the method we use to expand the timescale, the relationship between model time and the equivalent UT is not linear.

We have used two methods to generate trajectories for our models. In the first we have combined a 6 h MM5 back-trajectory (Wernli and Davis, 1997) with adapted temperature and pressure measurements from the Geophysica aircraft (Fig. 6b). To account for the differences between the aircraft- and wind-speeds we have multiplied the timescale of the aircraft data by the ratio of the aircraft true airspeed to wind speed at each data point (using aircraft ground-speed for the conversion increases the time in the lee-wave by another 15 % but makes little difference to the overall results). Scaling the air-speed to the wind-speed increases the time-frame of the measurements by a factor of 7–8. To account for differences between UCSE and MTP (see Sect. 3), we add 1.5 K to T_{UCSE}. This produces a good fit to the MTP data (compare the green (T_{UCSE} + 1.5 K) and black (MTP) lines in Fig. 6b), allowing us to retain the higher temporal resolution of the UCSE data.

However, as discussed above (see Sect. 3), the trajectory followed by the aircraft within the gravity wave was not isentropic. To study what influence this will have on modelling the observations we will also use four isentropic trajectories – along the 445 K, 450 K, 455 K and 460 K surfaces (see Fig. 5) – derived from the MTP data.

It should be noted that, within the mountain wave, neither the MM5 model nor the ECMWF analysis show tem-

peratures as low as 192 K. Without temperatures this low, the STS droplets will not grow very much, and there is little difference between the equilibrium and microphysical models. Hence, using these trajectories for model runs would not provide any extra information.

5.2 Model initialisation

We initialise our microphysical aerosol model using 4.8 ppmv H₂O, 8.1 ppbv HNO₃, 0.5 ppbv H₂SO₄; giving a log-normal particle distribution with mode radius 0.065 μm, width 1.8, and number density of 10 cm⁻³ at a temperature of 199.5 K and pressure of 58.12 mbar. The H₂O and HNO₃ mixing ratios are approximations taken, respectively, from FISH and SIOUX data during the second PSC event. The H₂SO₄ mixing ratio and particle number density are based on standard values for this part of the stratosphere. In the stratosphere, reactive nitrogen (NO_y) is composed of NO, NO₂, NO₃, N₂O₅, HONO, HO₂NO₂, HNO₃, PAN, and ClONO₂. For this work, however, we will assume that all of the particulate NO_y is in the form of HNO₃.

To initialise the chlorine compounds within our model we will use the scheme of Schauffler et al. (2003), which is based on data collected during the SOLVE campaign in January–March 2000. Using this scheme we calculate the total inorganic chlorine based on the N₂O content of the air parcel (determined by HAGAR to be approximately 135 ppb within the second PSC event), which is then divided between ClO_x, ClONO₂, HCl and HOCl. Values for ClO_x (ClO + 2Cl₂O₂) and ClONO₂ are derived from averages of HALOX measurements during, and immediately before, the PSC event. The HOCl mixing ratio is an estimate informed by previous modelling studies, while the HCl is simply the remainder of the total inorganic chlorine. Our total inorganic chlorine mixing ratio is 2800 ppt; with 300 ppt ClO_x, 500 ppt ClONO₂, 100 ppt HOCl and 1900 ppt HCl. The ClO_x data are uncertain by 30%. Although the results are sensitive to these uncertainties, the relative magnitudes of the results are less so, and thus neither are our conclusions.

6 Results

6.1 Particle composition

In Fig. 7 the particle-phase NO_y content of our microphysical model (green, light blue and purple lines, as identified in the legend) is compared with that measured by the SIOUX instrument (black line). The SIOUX instrument does not distinguish particles with radii < 0.1 μm from the gas phase (see Sect. 3), leading to an underestimation of the NO_y content of the condensed phase. To account for this when making comparisons between SIOUX and model data, the NO_y content of model particles with radii < 0.1 μm is not included in the condensed phase NO_y shown. The effect of this is to reduce the modelled HNO₃ content by 5–15%.

From Fig. 7 we see that the model runs along the 450 K, and 455 K isentropes, as well as that run along the 460 K isentrope (not shown), produce quite low particle-phase NO_y contents, whereas that produced by the 445 K model run is much higher – with a maximum of ≈ 0.5 ppbv NO_y in the particle-phase, comparable with the maxima of the SIOUX data, and ≤ 0.3 ppbv for the other model runs. The greater differences between the output from the 445 K and 450 K model runs, as opposed to, for example, the 450 K and 455 K runs, occur because these two trajectories straddle the narrow range of temperatures over which the liquid aerosol particles change composition from binary sulphate to ternary solutions.

Although the 445 K model run is the best at replicating the magnitude of the SIOUX measurements, it does not fully capture some of the rapid changes in NO_y content measured by the SIOUX instrument. As discussed above, these changes occur as the aircraft crosses isentropic levels, so sampling air-parcels with different temperature histories. To simulate this we have calculated the expected particle-phase NO_y content along the $T_{\text{UCSE}} + 1.5$ K trajectory by interpolating between the neighbouring two isentropic trajectories based on the calculated potential temperature for the $T_{\text{UCSE}} + 1.5$ K trajectory (where the trajectory passes outside of this range of potential temperatures, e.g. at time $t \approx 0.9$ h, we simply use the value for the nearest isentropic trajectory). The result is shown by the red line in Fig. 7a, and it retains the maximum NO_y content of approximately 0.5 ppbv of the 445 K model run, although for the majority of the mountain wave event the NO_y content is closer to the 450 K model run.

In Fig. 8a we compare the resulting particle-phase NO_y content from the combination of the isentropic trajectories with that resulting from simply running our microphysical model along the $T_{\text{UCSE}} + 1.5$ K trajectory. The NO_y content of $T_{\text{UCSE}} + 1.5$ K model run (blue line) is generally of a similar magnitude to that calculated from the isentropic models (red line), although with lower maxima. This is primarily due to the differences in the aerosol size distributions of the two runs. In the quasi-lagrangian model run, a higher proportion of the condensed phase NO_y is in particles with radii $< 0.1 \mu\text{m}$ than is the case for the combined result of the isentropic model runs. So, when we eliminate these particles, for comparison with the SIOUX data, the quasi-lagrangian test case is more severely affected. The difference is due to the temperature history of the quasi-lagrangian model run being warmer than that of the 445 K isentropic model run, which dominates the combined results at the observed maxima. However the difference between these model runs is small compared with their difference to the equilibrium calculations (grey line). Overall both microphysical model runs are better than the equilibrium calculations at capturing the magnitude of the SIOUX measurements. The equilibrium calculations are, however, better at representing the shape and magnitude of some observed features after $t = 1$ h.

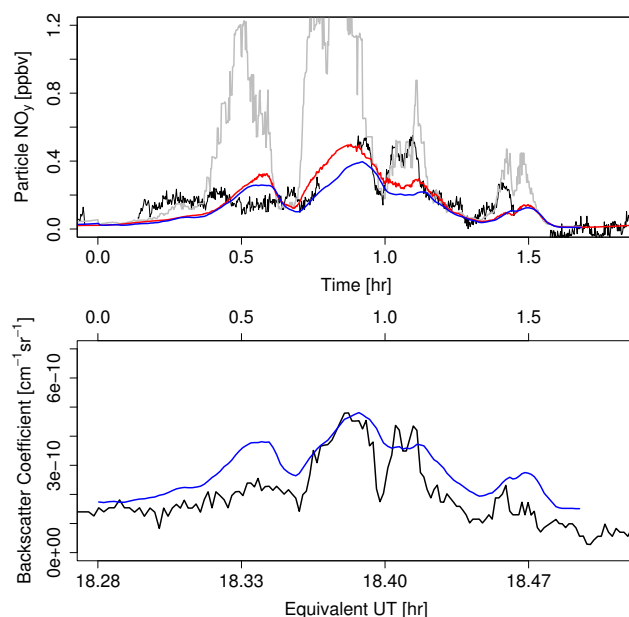


Fig. 8. (a) NO_y content of the condensed phase for our microphysical model (blue line) and equilibrium calculations (grey line) along the $T_{\text{UCSE}} + 1.5$ K trajectory, compared with those measured by the SIOUX instrument (black line) and calculated along the $T_{\text{UCSE}} + 1.5$ K trajectory using the data from the isentropic trajectories shown in Fig. 7 (red line). (b) Backscatter coefficients calculated from the MAS data (black line) and our microphysical model (blue line). The uncertainty of the MAS data varies around $5.5 \times 10^{-12} \text{ cm}^{-1} \text{ sr}^{-1}$; around 3% of the signal within the mountain wave.

In Fig. 8b we compare the backscatter coefficients from the MAS data (black line) and those calculated from our microphysical model (blue line). For these calculations we assume a refractive index of 1.43 for STS droplets (in line with the calculations of Luo et al., 1996). The peak values of the measured and modelled signals are of the same magnitude, and have a good temporal fit. However, throughout the rest of the mountain-wave event the modelled values are higher than those measured. This is because the stratospheric aerosol burden was lower than the standard values we used to initialise our model (see Sect. 5.2).

However we must note that our microphysical model does not simulate some features of the SIOUX and MAS measurements very well. Most notable is the uptake of NO_y predicted by the models and equilibrium calculations at $t \approx 0.5$ h, which is not seen in the measurements. Because of the detection limit of 0.3 ppbv NO_y for the SIOUX instrument (any signal features below this limit could be either real or artifact), we cannot be certain of the magnitude of the discrepancy between the models and measurements. However the absence of this feature within the measured mountain-wave PSC is supported by the MAS data (Fig. 8b). The most likely cause of these discrepancies are the simplifications and approxi-

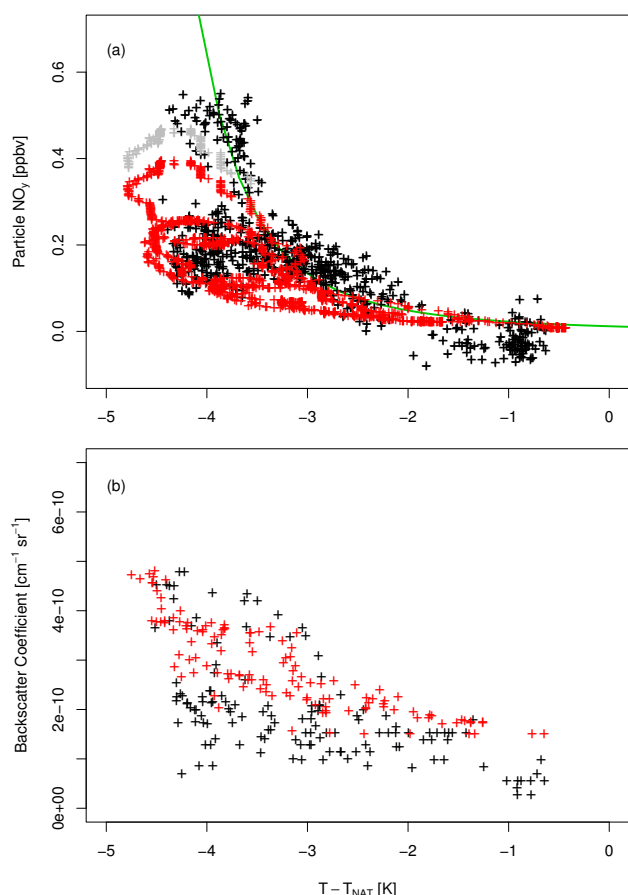


Fig. 9. (a) NO_y content of the condensed phase, within the mountain wave, for our microphysical model (red crosses) and the SIOUX data (black crosses) against $T - T_{\text{NAT}}$. The green line represents the equilibrium composition of STS at the mixing ratios mentioned in Sect. 5.2 and at a pressure of 50 mbar. The grey crosses represent the total NO_y content of the condensed phase of our microphysical model including particles with radii $< 0.1 \mu\text{m}$, between 0.84–0.98 h. (b) Aerosol backscatter coefficients within the mountain wave for our microphysical model (red crosses) and the MAS data (black crosses) against $T - T_{\text{NAT}}$.

mations which we have had to make in order to create the model trajectories. Because of the transient, non-stationary nature of the mountain waves on this day we are unable to get a better temporal fit to the observed data. Note, however, that the discrepancy between the equilibrium model and the observations at $t \approx 0.5$ h is even greater than that between microphysical model and observations.

To remove the time-dependence of the data we have plotted them against $T - T_{\text{NAT}}$ (Fig. 9). T_{NAT} is calculated using the parameterisation of Hanson and Mauersberger (1988). For all data sets temperature and pressure are taken from the flight data. For data from our microphysical model (red and grey crosses) we calculate T_{NAT} using the fixed values of H_2O and HNO_3 given in Sect. 5.2. For the measured data

(black crosses) we use the FISH and corrected SIOUX data to calculate T_{NAT} . Because of these different methods of calculating T_{NAT} the spread of $T - T_{\text{NAT}}$ values for the two data sets are slightly different. We note that the aerosol model seems to have been subjected to a slightly wider range of values of $T - T_{\text{NAT}}$, although some of this difference could be due to data gaps (calibration cycles) in the SIOUX measurements.

Comparing the measured (black crosses) and modelled (red crosses) particle NO_y data (Fig. 9a), we see a reasonable co-location of the two datasets at higher temperatures, although the modelled particle NO_y is about 0.15 ppbv below the measurement values at lower temperatures. We have previously noted that the aerosol size distributions during the quasi-lagrangian run are smaller than those from the isentropic model run which dominates at these low temperatures. Consequently more NO_y is in the smaller particles, so adding the NO_y from these particles back into our results (cf. grey crosses in Fig. 9a) does go some way to reducing the disparity. This is a reasonable approach if we assume that the measured particles have a temperature history more similar to the isentropic trajectories, in which case they will be larger and so there will be less NO_y in particles with radii $< 0.1 \mu\text{m}$. The comparison of the measured (black crosses) and modelled (red crosses) backscatter coefficients shown in Fig. 9b confirms the good agreement between modelled and measured backscatter ratios, particularly as $T - T_{\text{NAT}}$ becomes more negative.

The results from the combined isentropic and $T_{\text{UCSE}} + 1.5 \text{ K}$ microphysical model runs are, within our limitations, reasonable simulations of the SIOUX and MAS measurements. The mountain waves seen on the 8 February 2003 were not stable, so trajectories based on the aircraft data will not be perfect simulations of the actual isentropic trajectories. Additionally we have used mixing ratios based on averaged measurements within the mountain wave, which is a simplification.

6.2 Heterogeneous chemical reactions

Using the microphysical model run and the equilibrium calculations, along the $T_{\text{UCSE}} + 1.5 \text{ K}$ trajectory, we shall now examine the production of Cl_2 during the model runs. Cl_2 production is determined by the heterogeneous reaction rates (influenced by particle composition) and the aerosol surface areas and volumes available for these reactions to occur on. We calculate the reaction rates using the water activity of the modelled solutions (see Sect. 4.1). This is equal to unity for the equilibrium calculations, and close to unity for the microphysical model due to the short relaxation times of water (see Sect. 1). Thus, although differences in particles composition are large between the microphysical and equilibrium calculations (Fig. 10), any differences in the reaction rates of the two models directly due to particle composition will be minor. As discussed in Sect. 4.1, this may not remain the

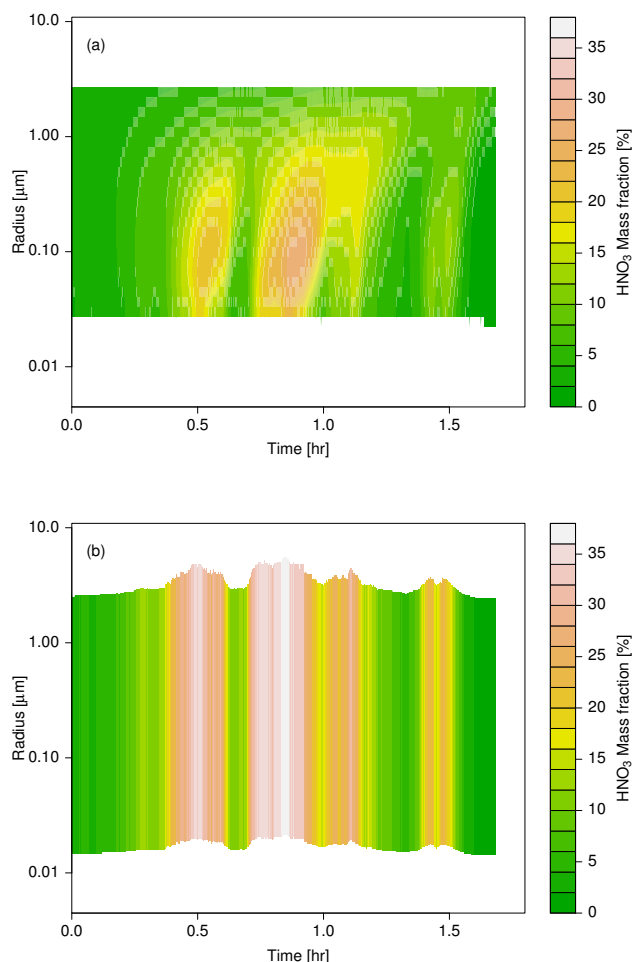


Fig. 10. The changes in HNO_3 mass fraction across the particle size range during the $T_{\text{UCSE}} + 1.5 \text{ K}$ model run shown in Fig. 8 for (a) our microphysical model and (b) the equilibrium model.

case if or when a parameterisation for chlorine activation in ternary solutions is developed.

The greatest cause of differences in Cl_2 production between the models are the differences in aerosol volume and surface area (Fig. 11). These are both larger in the equilibrium calculations (red line) than in the microphysical model (blue line). The differences in aerosol volume (Fig. 11b) are less than those in condensed NO_y content (Fig. 8a) due to the uptake of water by the particles in the microphysical model compensating for the reduced uptake of nitric acid. The differences in aerosol surface area (Fig. 11a) between the models are also significantly less than the differences in condensed NO_y content. This is because the smallest particles in the microphysical model grow most, unlike the equilibrium model for which particle growth is not size-dependent, creating a greater increase in surface area for the equivalent volume increase.

The loss rates of the heterogeneous reactions can be proportional to either the aerosol volume or surface area, de-

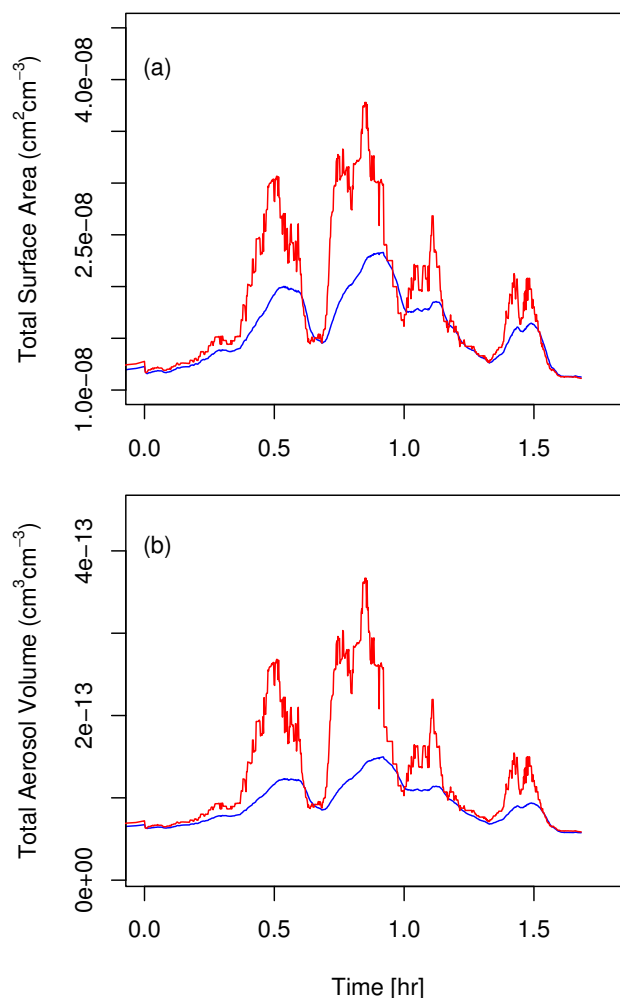


Fig. 11. Comparisons of the total aerosol (a) surface area and (b) volume produced from the equilibrium (red lines) and dynamic (blue lines) models in the $T_{\text{UCSE}} + 1.5 \text{ K}$ test case.

pending on the ratio of particle radius to reacto-diffusive length of the reaction (c.f. Shi et al., 2001). When the reacto-diffusive length is much larger than the particle radius then the reaction rates are proportional to the particle volume; when the reacto-diffusive length is much smaller than the particle radius then the rates are proportional to the particle surface area. During the quasi-lagrangian test-cases the reacto-diffusive length is in the range $0.005\text{--}0.015 \mu\text{m}$, increasing with decreasing temperature. The mode radius of the aerosol distribution for the microphysical model is in the range of $0.06\text{--}0.1 \mu\text{m}$, roughly a factor of 10 greater than the reacto-diffusive length. Consequentially the loss rates will be determined principally by the aerosol surface area, with some influence from the aerosol volume. The influence of the aerosol volume will increase for the smallest particles ($\approx 0.02 \mu\text{m}$) but do not dominate the loss rates in this test case.

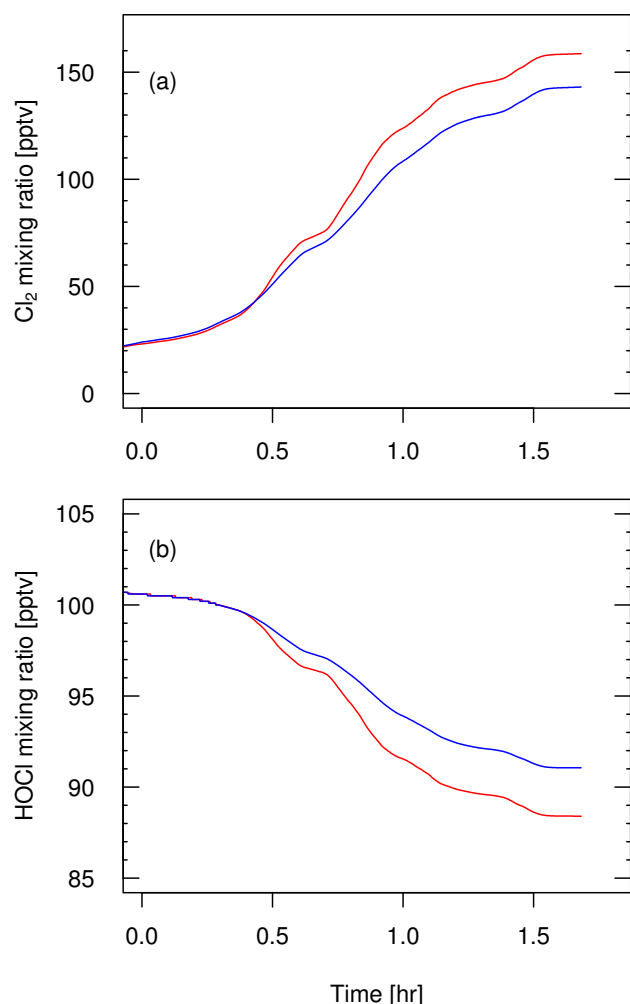


Fig. 12. Production of (a) Cl_2 and (b) HOCl during the $T_{\text{UCSE}} + 1.5 \text{ K}$ model runs shown in Fig. 8. The blue line indicates the output from our microphysical model, the red line that from the equilibrium code.

The production of Cl_2 and HOCl during the model run are shown in Fig. 12. The equilibrium code produces about 10% more Cl_2 than the microphysical model (159 pptv, compared with 143 pptv). As discussed above, this difference is principally due to the greater aerosol surface area seen in the equilibrium model (Fig. 11a). Measurements of ClO_x ($\text{ClO} + 2\text{Cl}_2\text{O}_2$) by the HALOX instrument show concentrations of around 300 pptv during this section of the flight. However, because the solar zenith angle was so large (Fig. 2) no comparison can be made between the measured ClO_x and the predictions of Cl_2 production from the model.

7 Conclusions

On the 8 February 2003, during the EuPLEx campaign, in-situ measurements of condensed-phase NO_y were made

within mountain wave PSCs. Using dynamic microphysical, and equilibrium composition, models running along quasi-lagrangian trajectories – generated using flight data from the Geophysica, MM5 back-trajectories and MTP data – we have investigated the second, Northern, PSC event. We found that the particle-phase NO_y measurements could be best represented by interpolating the NO_y content calculated by our microphysical model along the isentropic trajectories created using the MTP data. However the NO_y content predicted by our microphysical model using the $T_{\text{UCSE}} + 1.5 \text{ K}$ trajectory is comparable to that calculated using the MTP trajectories. Equilibrium calculations along the $T_{\text{UCSE}} + 1.5 \text{ K}$ trajectory overpredict the particle-phase NO_y content in the first section of the mountain wave by up to a factor of 3, although they are better at capturing the shape of the later measurements. These simulations of the mountain wave event are limited by the short-lived and non-stationary nature of the mountain waves, as well as by our assumptions of the homogeneity of the mixing ratios of atmospheric gases. Bearing these caveats in mind, we conclude that the fit of the dynamic model to the measurements is reasonable, and demonstrates the high degree of non-equilibrium in liquid PSCs formed by mountain waves. Within the simulated mountain wave our models produce 140–160 pptv Cl_2 (280–320 pptv Cl). Unfortunately, the solar zenith angle during this period is such that we cannot make any direct comparisons between modelled and measured ClO_x production; it would, however, be viable to make this comparison with measurements taken within similar mountain wave events occurring in sun light.

The differences in total aerosol mass between the two models are less than the differences in condensed-phase NO_y would suggest, because of the lower HNO_3 mass fractions of the dynamic model – which is due to a hysteresis effect in the evolution in composition of STS particles (Meilinger et al., 1995). The differences in the total aerosol surface areas are even smaller, because the mean particle radii of the dynamic model are smaller than those of the equilibrium model; consequently the equilibrium model only converts 10% more Cl_2 than the dynamic model. The differences in aerosol mass between the models, and so the differences in Cl_2 production, are very trajectory dependent. In this particular test case the average temperature within the mountain wave is 0.5–1.0 K above T_{STS} (the narrow ($\Delta T < 1 \text{ K}$) temperature range at which the liquid aerosols change from a primarily binary sulphuric to a ternary composition). The drops in temperature below T_{STS} are too brief for condensation of large amounts of HNO_3 to occur, so overall the dynamic model produces smaller aerosol masses than the equilibrium model. As the average temperature decreases so should the differences in mass between the models. Hence this 10% difference in Cl_2 production between the two models is not fixed; more research is required to determine the range of ratios which could be expected for typical stratospheric mountain wave events.

The differences in Cl_2 production, due to surface area differences, between the two models are less than the reductions we could expect if we used parameterisations for Reactions (R1)–(R3) designed for ternary solutions. It is not clear from the few data points collated by Hanson (1998) whether the magnitude of the reduction in ClONO_2 uptake coefficients varies with the HNO_3 content of the solution. Because of the hysteresis effect – where the liquid PSC particles closely follow the composition curve of the binary sulphate solution upon cooling, and follow that of the binary nitric acid solution upon warming (see Meilinger et al., 1995) – such a composition dependence of Reactions (R1)–(R3) would lead to a greater decrease of the rates in the equilibrium model than in the dynamic model, possibly to the point of eliminating, or even reversing, the differences between the models. There is therefore a need for more laboratory studies of the heterogeneous reaction rates on ternary sulphuric/nitric solutions and more airborne measurements of condensed NO_y simultaneous with measurements of gas-phase ClO_x .

Acknowledgements. Our thanks to F. Stroh and M. von Hobe for providing the HALOX data and for help with interpretation, M. Volk for providing the HAGAR data and for help with interpretation, and C. Schiller for providing the FISH data. Work performed at Lancaster University was supported by EU contract number EVK2-CT-2001-00119. Work performed at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory, California Institute of Technology, was carried out under a contract with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration. The ECMWF forecast and operational analyses were provided in the framework of the ECMWF special project “Influence of non-hydrostatic mountain waves on the stratosphere above Scandinavia” by one of the authors (A. Dörnbrack). We thank H. Wernli (University of Mainz, Germany) for his trajectory code. The mesoscale numerical simulations were performed on the NEC SX6 super computer of the German Climate Research Center (DKRZ) in Hamburg, Germany.

Edited by: K. Carslaw

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